

## Pro-Trump rally in Berkeley turns violent as protesters clash with the president's supporters

March 5, 2017

Supporters of the president and anti-Trump protesters clashed violently Saturday in Berkeley, Calif., on a day that numerous pro-Trump rallies took place across the country.

A planned "[March 4 Trump](#)" demonstration held at the city's Martin Luther King Jr. Civic Center Park — several blocks from the University of California at Berkeley campus — escalated after fights broke out between those who had shown up for the event and counter-protesters, which led to at least 10 arrests.

[Photos and video](#) from the afternoon showed police outfitted in riot gear, as shouting matches erupted within the crowd of a few hundred people, according to police. People could be seen kicking and hitting one another, either with their bare hands or with the signs they had been carrying.

Seven people received medical attention for injuries, but none needed or wanted to be taken to the hospital, police said.

Of the arrests, five were for battery, four for assault with a deadly weapon (including one person who had a dagger) and one for resisting arrest, according to Berkeley police.

Among the items confiscated from the crowd were metal pipes, baseball bats, two-by-four blocks of wood and bricks, police added.

Throughout the afternoon, images of the Berkeley clashes circulated on social media. At one point, Berkeley police released an alert to quash a rumor spreading online that someone had died of a stab wound at the rally.

The situation was further complicated when groups of self-described anarchists joined the crowd around 3 p.m., [the San Francisco Chronicle reported](#). The anarchists were dressed in black and blocked traffic as they marched through downtown Berkeley, mingling with pro-Trump and anti-Trump demonstrators, according to the newspaper.

"These people just want to fight," Nancy Chase, a Trump supporter, told the Chronicle. "They are anarchists in black, and it's not what we are about. I just

want to stand up for liberty.”

It is unclear whether the anarchists belonged to any one group. Activists aligned with “black bloc” groups had similarly wreaked havoc during protests in Washington during the inauguration, destroying property for the sake of upending order, [The Washington Post reported in January](#).

These groups take “advantage of the legitimate protesters to destroy things and emphasize their anarchist roots,” David Gomez, a former senior FBI counterterrorism official in Seattle, told The Post.

“This is a sad day,” Berkeley Councilman Ben Bartlett said, according to the newspaper. “We’re better than this.”

A Trump supporter is injured after the rally. (Dan Honda/East Bay Times via AP)  
Police encouraged people to report crimes even after the event ended.

“Because of the nature of the crowd, police are not always able to make immediate arrests without inciting further violence or injuring peaceful bystanders,” police said in a statement.

The liberal Northern California city has seen its share of intense demonstrations, most recently last month, when Milo Yiannopoulos, then a writer for Breitbart, was scheduled to speak at U.C. Berkeley on Feb. 1. Hundreds protested his presence on campus, allegedly setting off fireworks, throwing rocks and bricks and breaking windows, [according to the Daily Californian](#).

The protests reached such a pitch that the campus was placed on lockdown and Yiannopoulos’s talk was canceled.

Saturday's "March 4 Trump" rally in Berkeley was [part of a nationwide demonstrations in support of the president](#), which drew praise from Trump.

Though the other events were mostly peaceful, many were met with counterprotesters. A handful of people were arrested in various cities as a result of the protests, [according to the Associated Press](#).

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